REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2005 for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 17 in order to clarify that which Applicant deems to be the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are all supported by the originally filed application. See, for example, the disclosure on page 27, lines 8 and 9, of the originally filed specification.

The objection to claim 27 has been addressed herein by correcting the listing of claims to accurately reflect that claim 27 is *not* cancelled, which is consistent with the treatment of claim 27 in the remainder of Applicants' previous response. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicants are not certain how to address the rejection of Claims 1-6, 17-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In connection with this rejection, the Office Action states the following:

> i. In claim 1, "device records" and "job records" are indefinite because it is not made explicitly clear in the claim whether these are associated with the "device" or the "communication device", or to both.
>
> ii. Claim 17 is rejected for the same indefinite reasons as stated in teh rejection of claim 1 above.

In a previous response, Applicants amended the claims in accordance with the remarks provided in the previous Office Action. As currently drafted, both claim 1 and claim 17 recite a "communication device" but do not recite any separate "device". Each of the device records is recited as corresponding to the recited first communication device and each of the job records is recited as being for at least one of the device records. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn or, in the alternative, Applicants respectfully request suggested alternative language that will address this rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5-6, 17, 21-22, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poublan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,104,718, hereinafter referred to as "Poublan") in view of Brackett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,632, hereinafter referred to as "Brackett") is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of amendments to claims contained herein.

Claim 1, as amended herein, is directed to a method of providing multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The method is recited as including providing a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to the first communication device; providing a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second

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communication device, and linking the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities. Claims 2-6 and 27 depend from Claim 1.

Claim 17, as amended herein, recites computer software that provides multiple jobs for a first communication device that exchanges data with a second communication device. The software is recited as including executable code that provides a plurality of device records, where each of the device records corresponds to the first communication device; executable code that provides a plurality of job records for at least one of the device records, where each of the job records contains at least some information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and where at least one of the job records corresponds to tasks performed in connection with exchanging data between the first communication device and the second communication device, and executable code that links the job records and the corresponding device record so that any one of the job records may be accessed by first accessing the corresponding one of the device records, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities. Claims 18-22 depend from Claim 17.

Poublan discloses providing multiple jobs for a device associated with a communication device. As indicated at item 3 of the Office Action, Poublan does not

teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records and exchanging data between the two communication devices.

The Office Action also indicates at item 3 that Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices as set forth at column 5, lines 30-33, column 8, lines 5-16, Fig. 2, Fig. 6 and 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Poublan, nor Brackett, nor any combination thereof show, teach, or suggest the feature recited in the claims, as presently amended, where jobs corresponding to the job records associated with a particular device record are serviceable by different entities. This feature of the present claimed invention allows operations for a device to be handled more quickly and efficiently by allowing multiple entities (including entities that are relatively idle) to assist. For example, in the case of a background copy operation, the associated jobs may be handled by multiple entities, thus allowing the background copy operation to complete sooner.

In contrast, neither cited reference appears to address or even recognize this problem solved by the present claimed invention. Poublan does not teach that the job records contain information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records, and thus there does not appear to be any mechanism in Poublan for having an entity other than the device itself service job records for the device. Furthermore, even if

Brackett teaches having job records containing information that is also provided in the corresponding one of the device records for a system that communicates with multiple remotely located storage or printing devices, there still is no teaching whatsoever in Brackett of having the job records of a particular device being able to be serviced by multiple entities. Data structures like those described in the present specification are used to make jobs for one device be serviceable by other entities. No such data structure (or anything that could perform the same or similar function) is described in Brackett. Note that having the job records serviced *by* multiple entities is different and distinguishable from having the job records relate to communication by the device *to* multiple entities.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 2-4 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poublan in view of Brackett and further in view of James (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,376, hereinafter referred to as "James"), is hereby traversed and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested in view of amendments to the claims contained herein.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, discussed above. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 17, discussed above.

Poublan and Brackett are summarized above.

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James discloses a system for converting between the states of fresh and owned in a multiprocessor computer system comprising a memory line with a structure including a first field for storing a memory state, a second field for storing an address and a third field for storing data. (See Abstract). James relates to a system and method for maintaining cache coherence that is even driven and changes the state of the caches and memories based on the current memory state and a head of a list of corresponding cache entries. (Col. 1, Lines 17-23).

Applicant respectfully submits that the deficiencies of Poublan and Brackett with respect to the independent claims 1 and 17, discussed above, are not overcome by the addition of the James reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection he withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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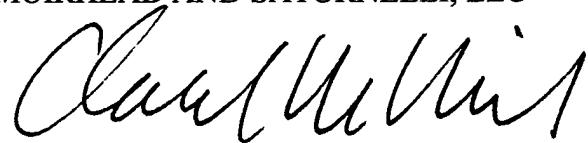
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